



## Greetings FHI Stakeholders!

See below for updates, announcements, and save the dates from the Family Homelessness Initiative.

**\*\*There will not be an August FHI Information Session or FHC Feedback Meeting.\*\***

FHI will be hosting a Learning Opportunity in August in lieu of the regularly scheduled FHI Info Session. See the date and other details below.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITY ON RAPID REHOUSING FOR FAMILIES

Join us for us an open dialogue on RRH

An opportunity to hear about what a homeless housing provider in Virginia is doing and how their work aligns with our local efforts.



Northern Virginia  
Family Service

### Northern Virginia Family Services

Gwen McQueeney\*, Deputy Director of Shelter and Rapid Rehousing  
Kimberly Davidson, Housing Locator, Rapid Rehousing/Shelter

*With RRH, shelter stays at NVFS  
have gone from an average of  
245 days to 45 days!*

**Date:** Tuesday, August 25, 2015

**Time:** 9:30am - Noon

**Location:** South Seattle Community College, Georgetown Campus (Gene J. Colin Education Hall),  
6737 Corson Avenue South, Seattle

**Note:** Parking is available for \$3.00; pay at the parking kiosk located in front of the building. Metro Bus Route 154 stops at the Georgetown campus, while routes 60, 124, 131, and 132 stop near the Georgetown campus. You can call METRO or check the METRO Trip Planner for bus route schedules and times using "CORSON AVE S & EAST MARGINAL WAY S" as your destination.

\*Ms. McQueeney has presented several times for the National Alliance to End Homelessness: *Shaping a Rapid Rehousing Program through Data and Best Practices; Implementing Rapid Re-Housing: What You Need to Know; Leveraging Successful Landlord Relationships*; and, Rapid Re-housing Core Components: Housing Identification.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - NEWS & UPDATES

### FHI Advisory Group Update:

The Family Homelessness Initiative Advisory Group (AG) met July 8. The meeting objectives were:

- **Provide input on the 2016 CEH Legislative Priorities**

Kate Baber presented on the 2015 State Legislative agenda outcomes and the 2015 CEH priorities. A few of the highlights included: Housing Trust Fund/Capital Budget investment in affordable housing, a 9% increase to the TANF cash grant, extended Foster Care services, and new Homeless Youth Act. It was noted that the HMIS bill did not pass, including the youth consent piece, and several bills expanding and protecting tenant rights

August 2015

also did not pass. Kate also spent some time educating the group on the implementation of a Medicaid benefit for tenancy support services in Permanent Supportive Housing. The Health Care Authority is submitting a 1115 Global Waiver this fall and this benefit is a central component. WLIHA is asking key stakeholders to sign a letter of support for the waiver. It was asked how people could get plugged into the Washington Accountable Communities of Health; Kate said she would follow up with a summary to share with the group.

- ***Provide input on the proposed strategies for the next phase of realignment***

The Advisory Group was provided a brief overview of work to date on the realignment effort (Status Update 7/8/15 -attachment). The goal for the discussion was for the group to provide input on 4 potential strategies to move realignment forward. The group broke into sub-groups to discuss the proposed strategies and identify potential merits and challenges. CEH will synthesize the group's discussion and input to develop recommendations to share with funding partners.

- ***Provide input of the data framework to inform the new FHI Implementation Plan***

The agenda item was slightly modified to incorporate a presentation on the NAEH/Focus Strategies SWAP tools. The System Wide Analytics and Performance (SWAP) tools are designed to enable communities to use local data to understand what their current system is accomplishing and model what happens when system and programs changes are theoretically made. The tools can be used to inform system planning and system change efforts to reduce homelessness over a period of five years. The SWAP tools are being used locally to inform system realignment, and will provide an opportunity to refine the realignment efforts for FHI. The AG will hear more about the SWAP tools in the coming months and the idea is that the group will provide input on scenarios for the family system as we undertake the planning work for the new Implementation Plan. In the interim, Focus Strategies, CEH, and local evaluation staff will be working with funders and agencies to import the necessary data into the tool.

The FHI Advisory Group meets every other month (next meeting is in September). *Past agendas and meeting summaries can be found on the FHI website.*

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### ***Coordinated Entry System – Progress on FHC process changes***

Efforts are underway to align coordinated entry planning for all populations with the CE Vision affirmed by the IAC in March. As part of this effort, the Coordinated Entry workgroup is continuing their work to refine the proposed model for decentralized FHC assessments to include a vision for community-based “hubs”. CEH is working closely with the FHC team to clarify the vision and timeline for adopting this new model.

CEH will be providing regular updates on this process and opportunities to engage which will replace the regular updates that had previously been sent out by FHC.

If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact Kira Zylstra at [kira.zylstra@cehkc.org](mailto:kira.zylstra@cehkc.org).

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### ***Rapid Re-housing For Families Pilot - Interim Evaluation Report <https://goo.gl/dO2SZZ>***



An interim evaluation of Rapid Re-Housing for Families Pilot (RRHF), an initiative launched in November 2013 by CEH and many significant partners, has identified encouraging results. The pilot's goals are to shorten the time families spend homeless and serve more families by providing cost-effective short-term assistance. One hundred and fifty families have found housing through RRHF. More than 60 percent of families housed moved into permanent housing within three months of enrolling, compared to an average 15-month stay for families in transitional housing. The program will continue, and the next phase of the evaluation will assess the impact of RRHF on the system's overall functioning. More information can be found on the Initiative website: [www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness), or if you have please contact Debbi Knowles at [debbi.knowles@cehkc.org](mailto:debbi.knowles@cehkc.org)

## *System Realignment Work*

System realignment efforts continue. No new updates to report on currently. More information can be found on the Initiative website: [www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness). If you have questions or would like to discuss realignment options for any of your time-limited programs, please contact Triina Tennelo at [triina.tennelo@cehkc.org](mailto:triina.tennelo@cehkc.org)

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## *Systems Innovation Grants (SIG)*

### **Shelter to Housing Project**

The next Implementation Check in is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 PM; location to be determined. The meeting topic is a six-month evaluation discussion. More about the Shelter to Housing Project and project guidelines can be found on the FHI [website](#) or by contacting [triina.tennelo@cehkc.org](mailto:triina.tennelo@cehkc.org).

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness, Operation: WelcomeOneHome, Launch Event August 10*

Our community has permanently housed 426 formerly homeless Veterans so far this year; an average of 2 Veterans per day. Yet despite this accomplishment, there are hundreds more Veterans in our community that need assistance, many of whom have the resources to move into permanent housing, but struggle to secure a place to call home in our highly competitive rental market. Operation: WelcomeOneHome is an urgent and coordinated community call to action to build upon the existing work performed in our community to effectively end Veteran homelessness by December 31, 2015.

King County's Regional Veteran's Initiative invites Veterans, landlords, neighbors and officials to the launch of Operation: WelcomeOneHome on **Monday, August 10th from 10 AM-noon at Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway, Seattle WA, 98122**. Learn more about how to get involved in the campaign and hear from keynote speaker, the Honorable Senator Patty Murray and other important stakeholders. Beginning at 11 AM, property owners and landlords are encouraged to participate in the "Landlord Forum: What Success Looks Like," where they will have the opportunity to engage with and ask questions of local case managers and housing specialists working with Veterans. Please RSVP using our Eventbrite page (<http://goo.gl/JwFoh9>) your presence and support at this event are essential in making our goal of ending Veteran homelessness in King County a reality!

### *Job Opportunity: King County Housing Services & Stability Program Manager*

The Department of Community and Human Services is leading the County's homeless work and the **Housing Services and Stability Program Manager** (Project/Program Manager IV) is a critical leader in the County's effort to reduce homelessness in the region. Please note the closing date/time: 08/20/15 4:30 pm; see the position posting (Housing Services & Stability Program Manager/Project Program Manager IV) and application details at: <http://kingcounty.gov/audience/employees/careers/jobs.aspx>.

King County is committed to equity and diversity in the workplace. In addition, the county is committed to recruiting and maintaining a quality workforce that shares our guiding principles: collaborative, service-oriented, results-focused, accountable, innovative, professional and fair and just. **Please share with your networks and encourage all interested candidates to apply!**

### *SKCCH Project Cool for Kids Experiencing Homelessness | <http://goo.gl/pGBmJG>*

The Seattle Times highlights the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness' Project Cool for Back-to-School, which seeks to prepare 1,400 students struggling with homelessness for their first day of school by filling backpacks with school and other supplies. Visit the [SKCCH website](#) to learn more about how to donate to or get involved in Project Cool.

## **HUD Family Options Study Releases Short Term Results | <http://goo.gl/vc53GS>**

In July, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released short-term outcome results for their Family Options Study (FOS). The FOS is a randomized control study examining the effectiveness and cost of three crisis interventions (transitional housing, rapid re-housing and usual care) in helping homeless families. It also re-examines the effectiveness of long-term housing subsidies. The Study's findings on the relative effectiveness of crisis interventions are of particular interest, as housing subsidies are so rarely available to help families that become homeless.

Of the crisis interventions that communities typically have available to help families that become homeless, the Study found that rapid re-housing had by far the lowest cost and was as, if not more, effective than the other crisis interventions. Transitional housing was the most expensive by a considerable magnitude, but it had no better, and in some respects poorer, outcomes compared to the other crisis interventions. ([An Analysis by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, July 2015](#))

## **WHAT'S COMING NEXT FOR FHI**

**Monthly FHI Stakeholder Information Session** The Family Homelessness Initiative staff host monthly information sessions to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the work of the Initiative. This is an opportunity to hear about current projects, what is coming up next, and to ask questions and provide input.

**There will not be an August FHI Information Session or FHC Feedback meeting, instead there will be a RRH learning opportunity (see above).**

**THE NEXT FHI INFO SESSION** will be:

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

9:00-10:00am

Location: 2100 Building (2100 24th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144)

Contact Triina Tennelo at [triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov) or visit the Initiative website for more information on the Info Session or Danielle Winslow at [daniellew@ccsww.org](mailto:daniellew@ccsww.org) for more information on the FHC.

## **CONTACT US**

If you have questions about any of the above updates, or if you would like us to share any announcements, opportunities, or items on your behalf in future monthly emails, you can contact FHI Staff.

**Please feel free to contact any FHI staff member for more information or assistance:**

Debbi Knowles, [debbi.knowles@cehkc.org](mailto:debbi.knowles@cehkc.org), 206-263-9088

Triina Tennelo, [triina.tennelo@cehkc.org](mailto:triina.tennelo@cehkc.org), 206-263-9110

Visit our website to learn more about the Family Homelessness Initiative or to locate any of the documents referenced in this email at [www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness).

**For more information on the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) or to see the most recent CEH monthly newsletter, go to the website at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org)**